

How-To Bind a Mini Hardcover Book by Hand

by Craig Wimberly

SUPPLIES

Pencil with a good eraser
Ruler
Paper (8 pieces of standard 8.5 x 11; 2 decorative cover pages)
Craft knife and/or Scissors
Clamps
Scrap cardboard
Needle
Waxed thread
Pushpin
PVA/book-binding glue
Glue-safe paintbrush
Fabric or faux leather book cloth
Binders tape

Extras/Alternatives

Kneaded eraser
Bone folder
Flower press or binder clips
Rounded needle
Elmer's liquid school glue
Cheesecloth or gauze
Ribbon, keychain, or jewelry connectors (decorative)
Headbands (decorative)

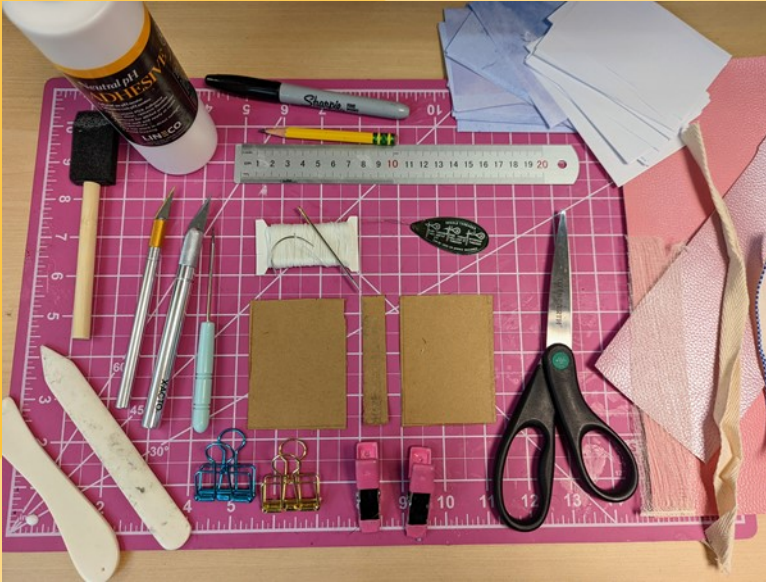


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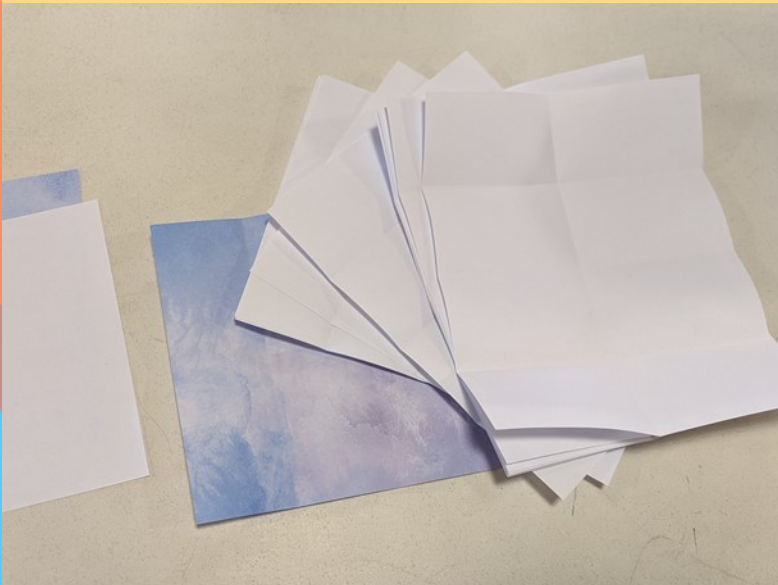
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INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prep your workspace and your supplies. In addition to your tools and materials, you will need a cut-resistant surface such as a cutting mat or kitchen cutting board.



2. Fold and cut your 8.5 x 11 pieces of paper into 8 equal sections.



- a. After cutting into equal sections, fold each piece (roughly 4.25 x 2.75) in half along the short edge; this folded piece is a 'folio'.

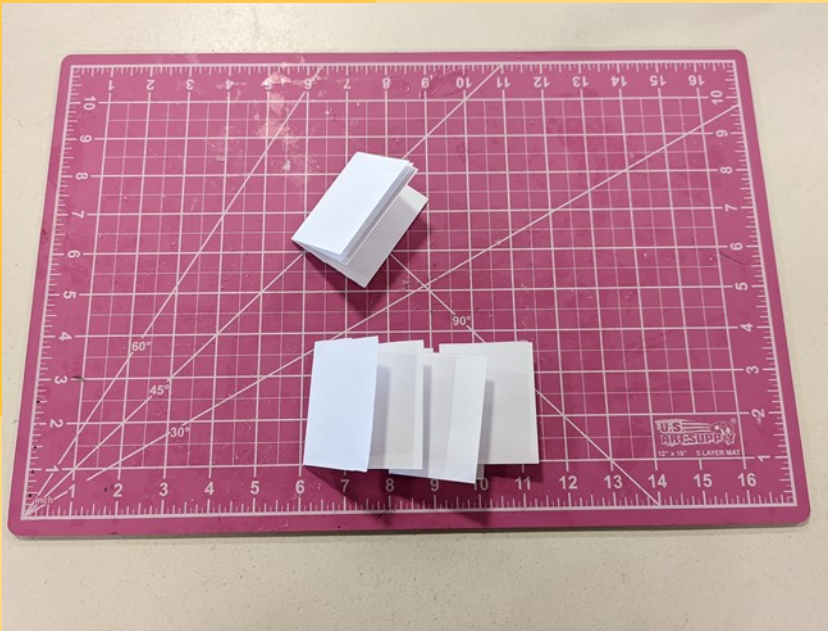


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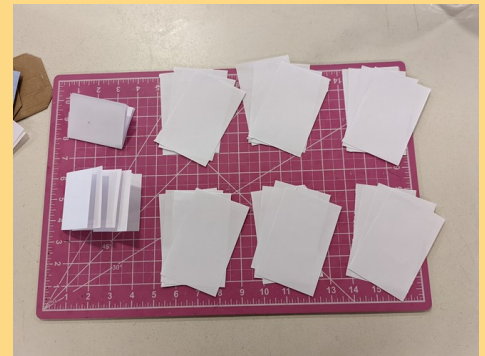
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INSTRUCTIONS continued

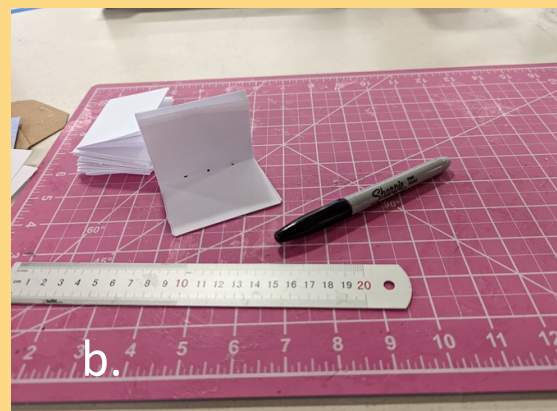
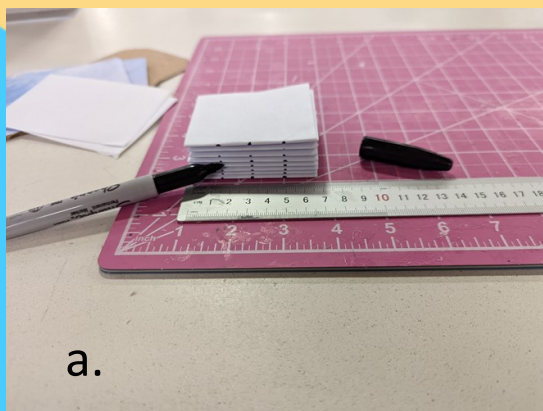
3. Nest 2-4 folios to create a sturdy 'signature' depending on the thickness of your paper. Make sure that the edges are as even as possible; if they start to poke out, this is called 'creep' and will affect the structure of your book later.



- a. Create at least 6-8 signatures. Each signature of 4 folios will create 8 pages in your final book; therefore 6 signatures will create 48, 8 will create 64, and so on. It's up to you how many pages you need in your book.



4. Stack all the signatures together to prepare what will become your text block.
 - a. Measure your text block and mark the spines with dots at regular intervals. You should create at least 4 sections along your spine, but the more equal intervals you create will reinforce the frame of your book.
 - b. Remove the first marked folio, flip it inside out, and put it on the inside of the signature. This will make the next step of creating the holes for your sewing much easier.

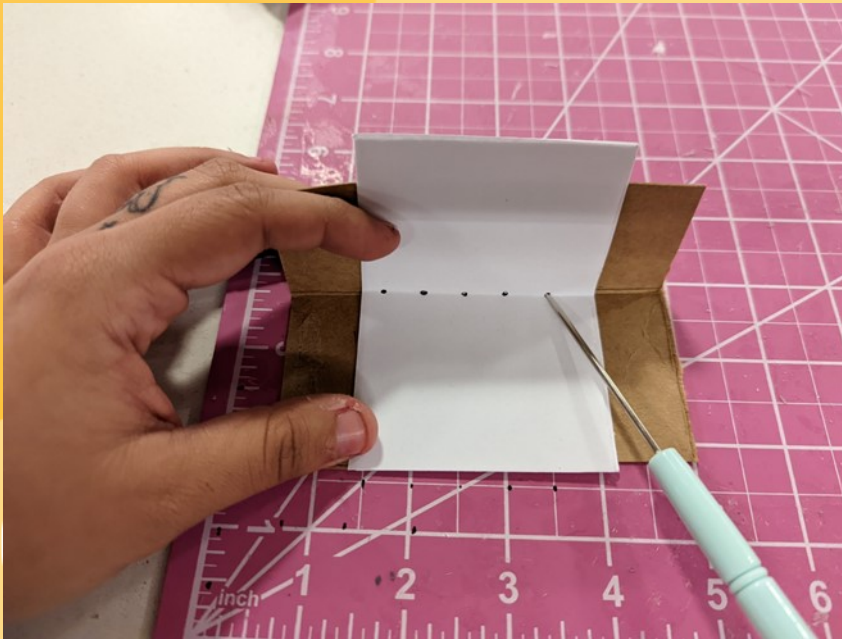


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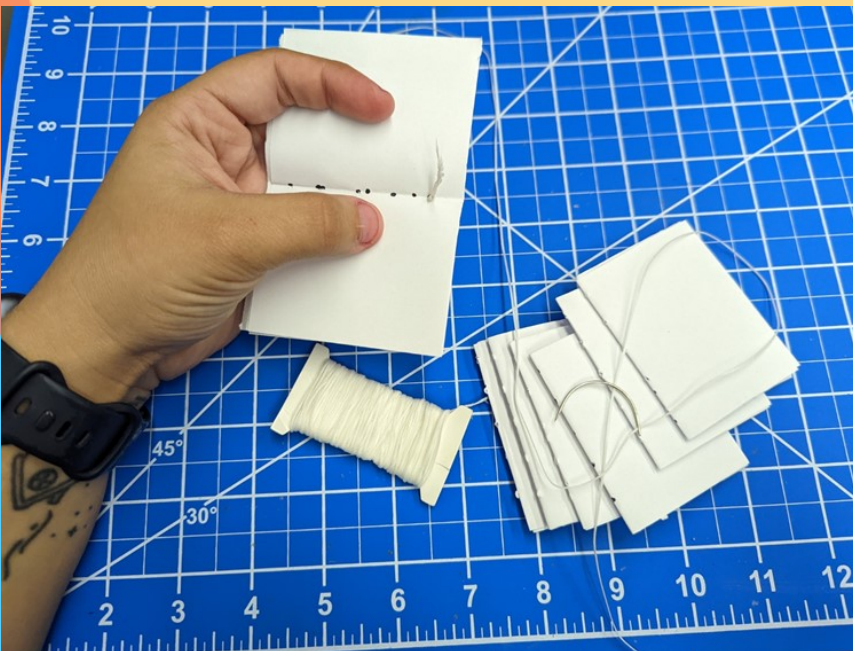
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INSTRUCTIONS continued

5. Start with your first signature and use a pushpin or needle as an awl to put holes through the dots you marked in 4a. You can use cardboard scrap to making punching the holes easier. Do this process for each of your signatures.



6. Thread your needle and double knot one end. Then push your needle gently through the first hole on exterior of your signature.

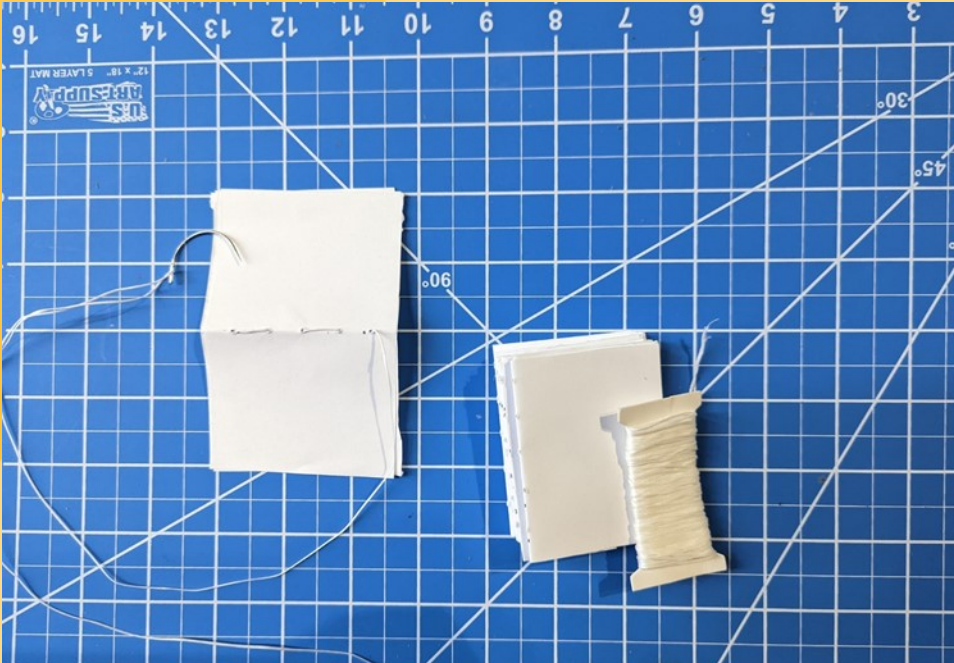


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INSTRUCTIONS continued

7. Pull the needle from the interior out through the second hole on the spine and into the third and so on. Sew like this until you reach the exterior of the last hole on your signature:

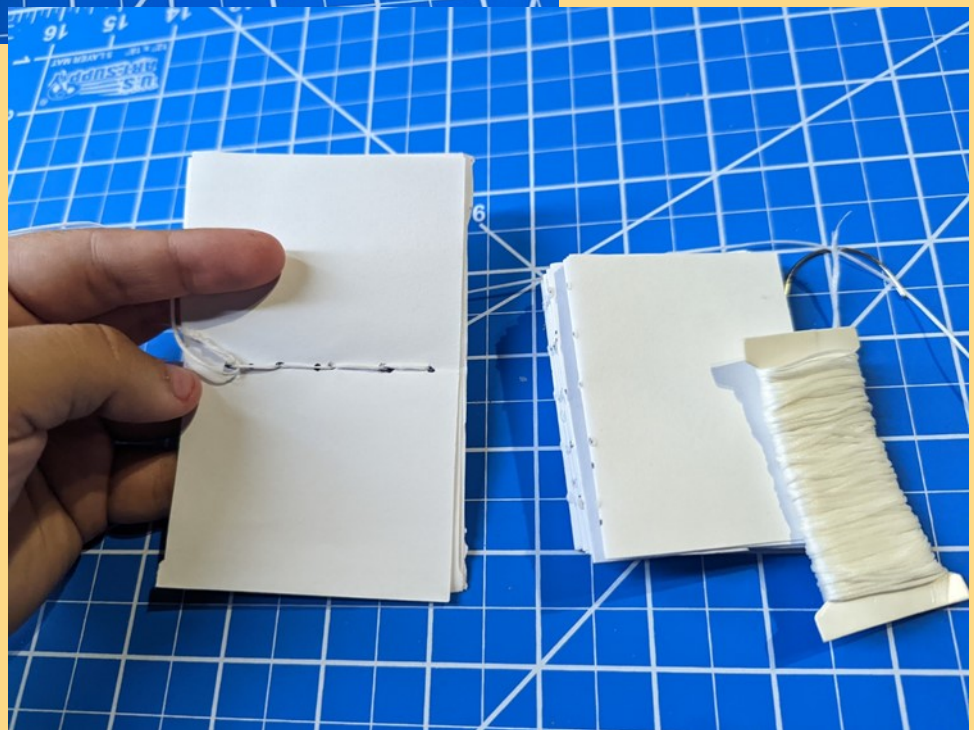
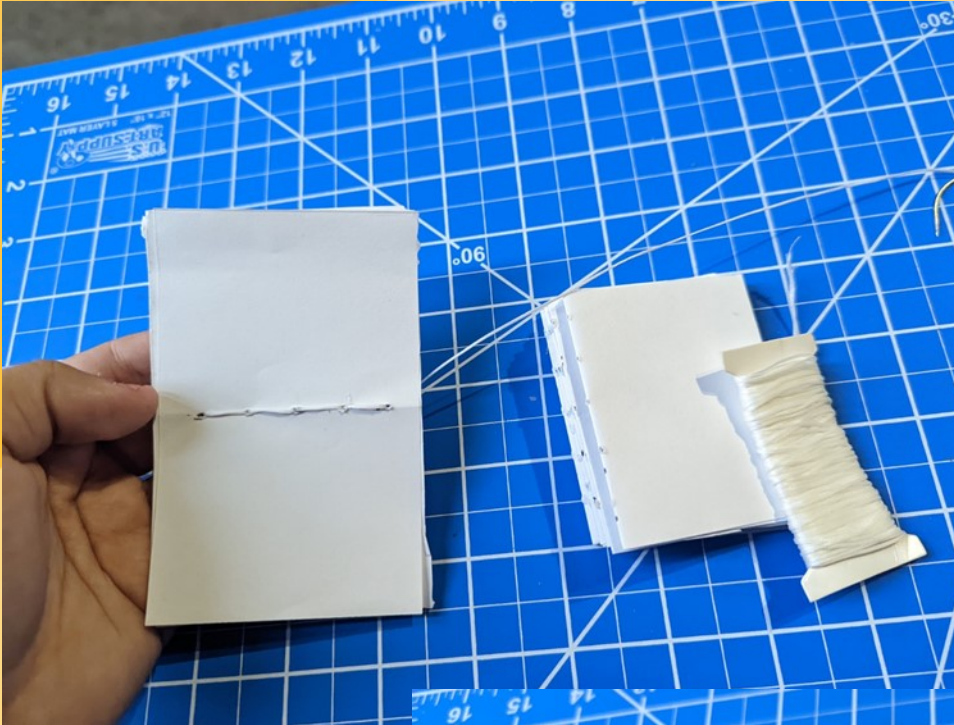


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INSTRUCTIONS continued

8. When you are finished, the spine of your signature should have 1 full row of threading on the exterior and the interior like so:



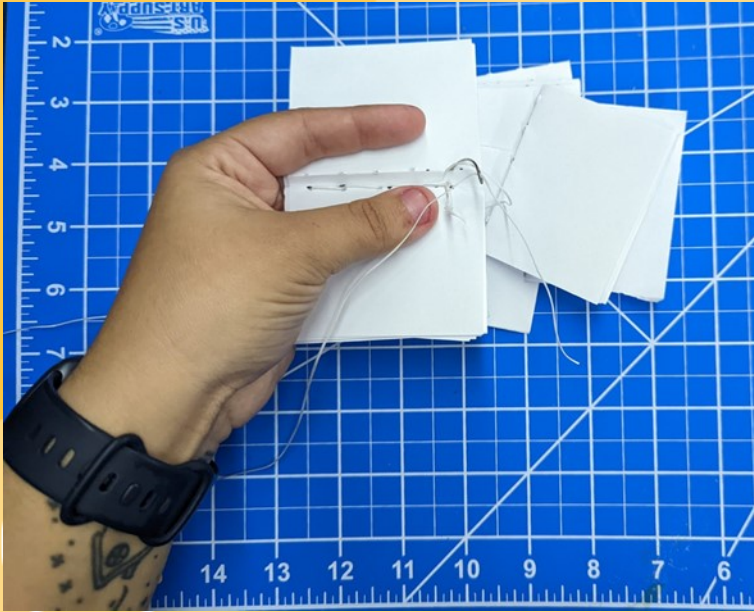
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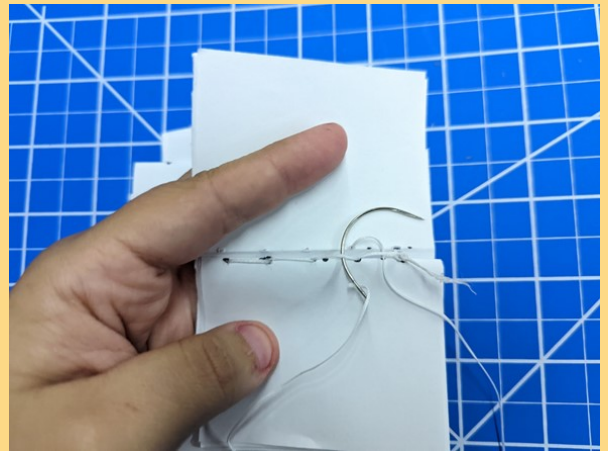
INSTRUCTIONS continued

9. To attach the first signature to the second, use a kettle stitch:

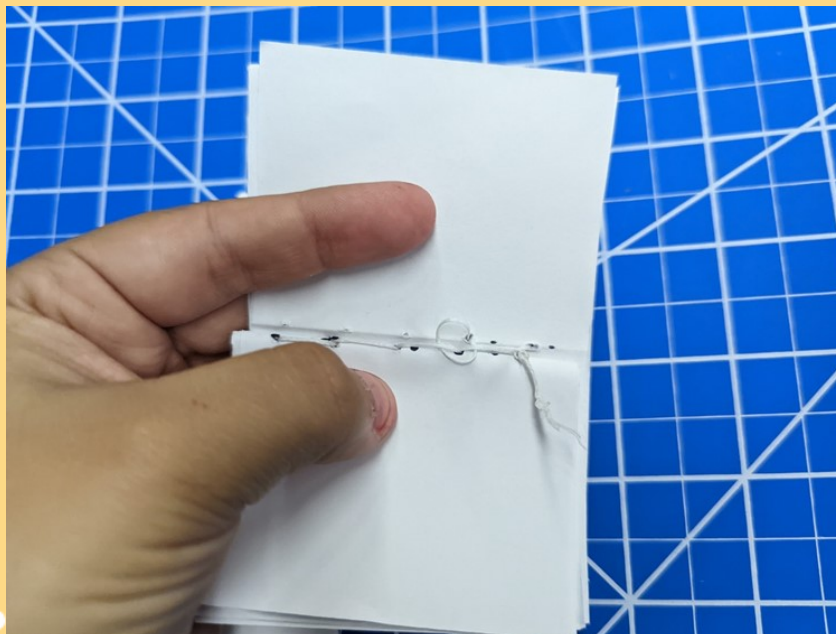
a. Your thread should be exiting the spine of the first, so that you can push your needle into the first hole on the second signature:



b. When your needle exits the second hole, hook the needle under the first loop of the first signature like so:



c. Proceed to guide the needle through the second hole of the second signature creating a smaller loop around the first. Continue this pattern until you reach the end of your second signature.



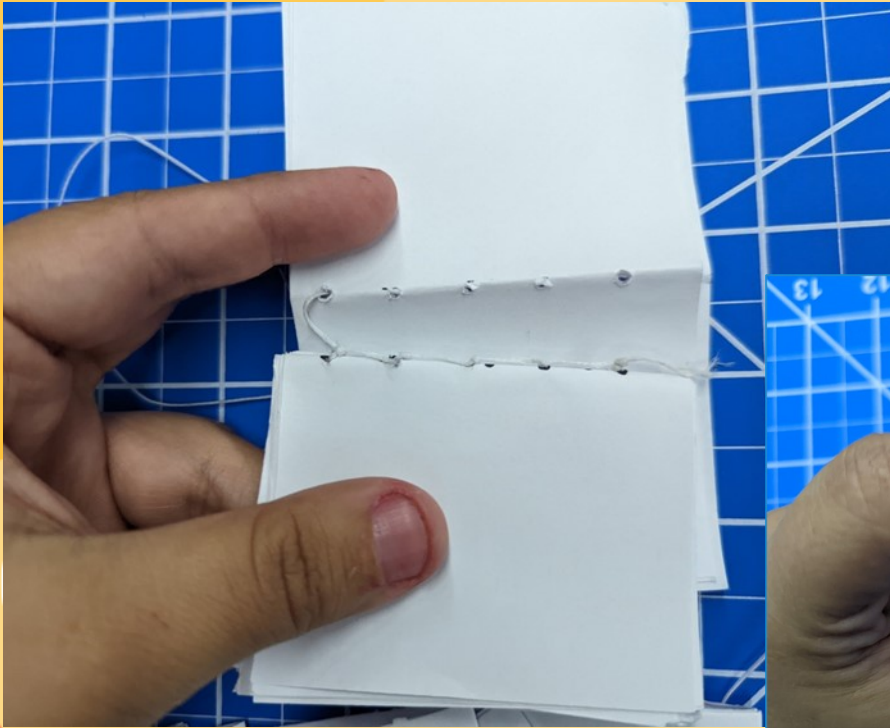
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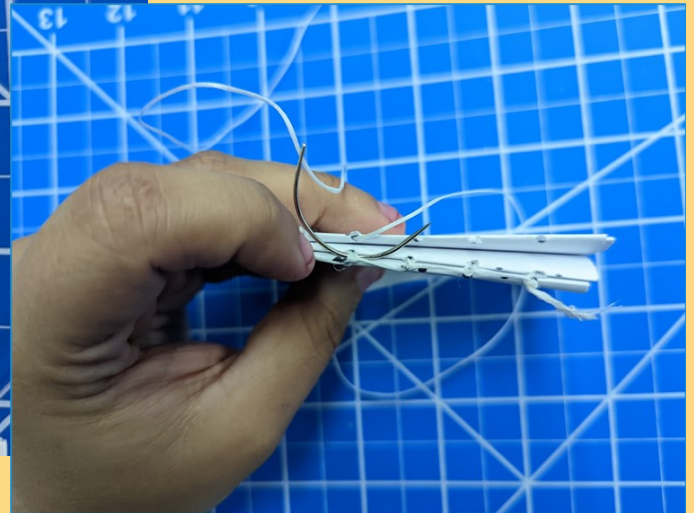
INSTRUCTIONS continued

10. To attach your second signature to your third:

a. Thread your needle through the first hole of your third signature:

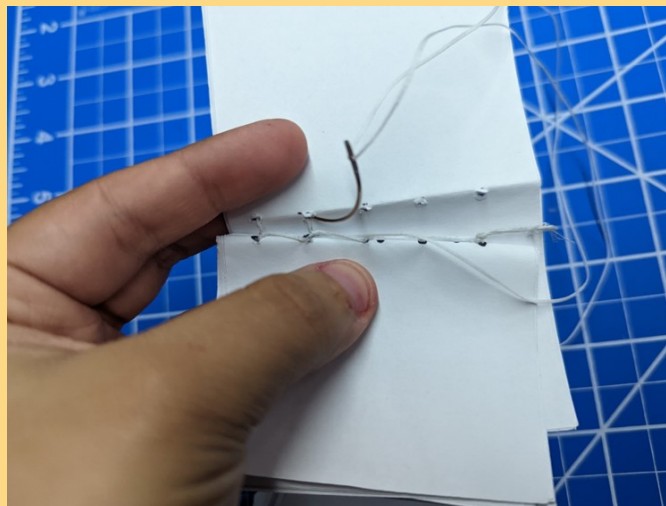


b. Upon exiting the second hole of your third signature, tuck your needle into the space between your first 2 signatures underneath the smaller loop, like so



c. Proceed to guide the needle through the second hole of the third signature creating a smaller loop around the first. Continue this pattern until you reach the end of your third signature.

d. Continue attaching signatures until you have attached them all.

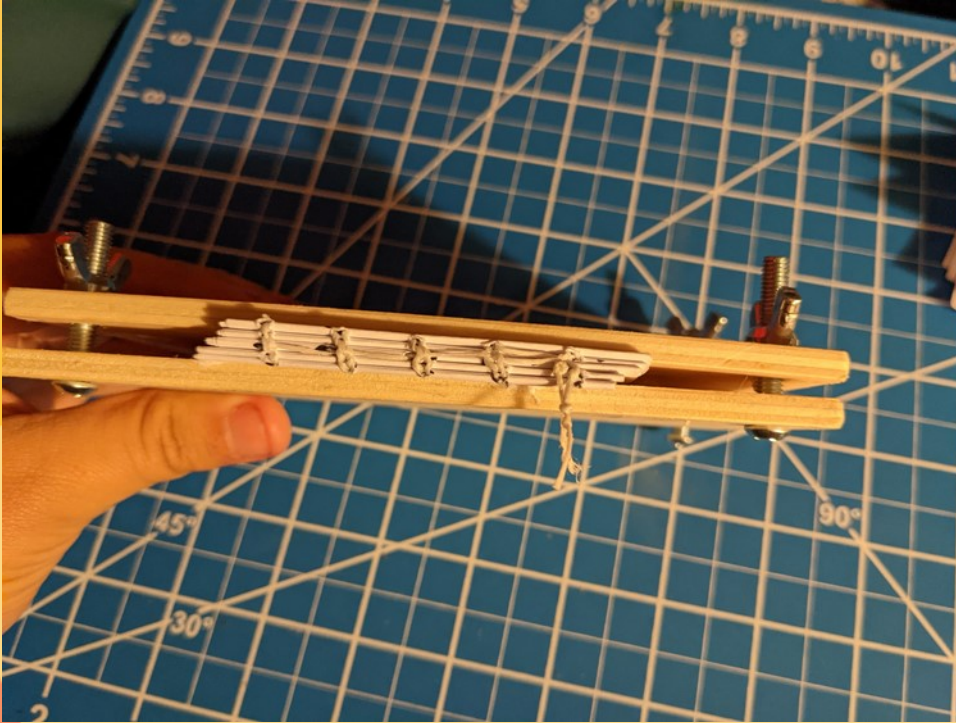


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INSTRUCTIONS continued

11. Clamp text block to prepare for glue. (I used a flower press but binder clips or 2 heavy books also work well. If you use binder clips, use a piece of cardboard between the paper and the binder clip to avoid forming grooves in the text block.)



12. Glue the spine and let sit until dry.



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INSTRUCTIONS continued

13. Glue headband and/or bookbinder's tape onto spine and let dry in press or clamps. If you would like to add a decorative ribbon, keychain, or jewelry connector, add it between the headband and the gauze in this step.



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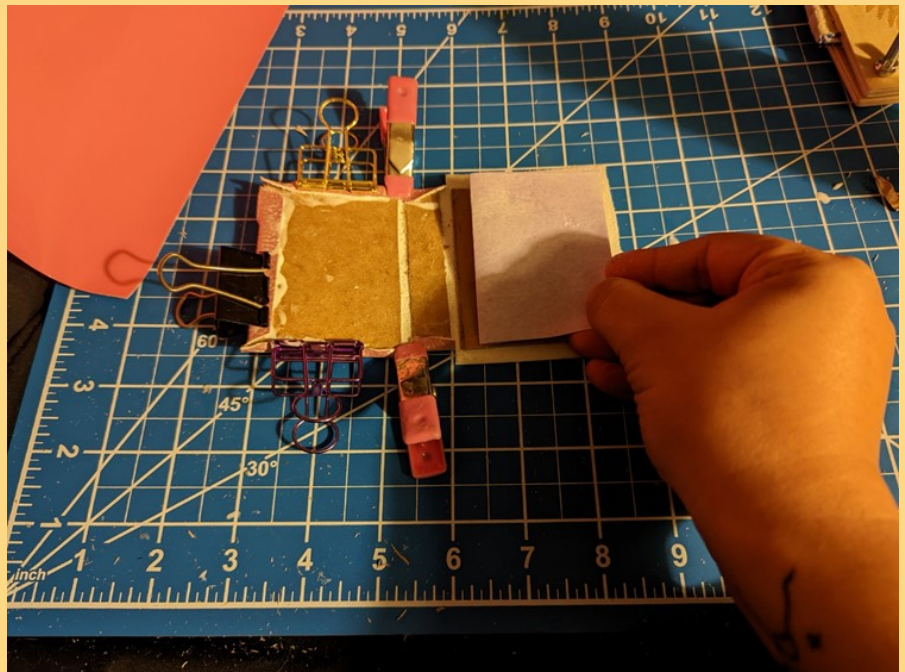
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INSTRUCTIONS continued

14. Use the decorative cover pages to measure your cardboard into 3 pieces. Two larger pieces should be the same size as your folded folios and the third piece should be the same size as the spine of your text block. Cut to size and glue down edges.



15. Affix cover pages to cover with glue stick. Clamp or press and leave to dry for 30-45 minutes or until dry. (This step may be more difficult and take longer to dry if you choose faux leather rather than bookcloth.)

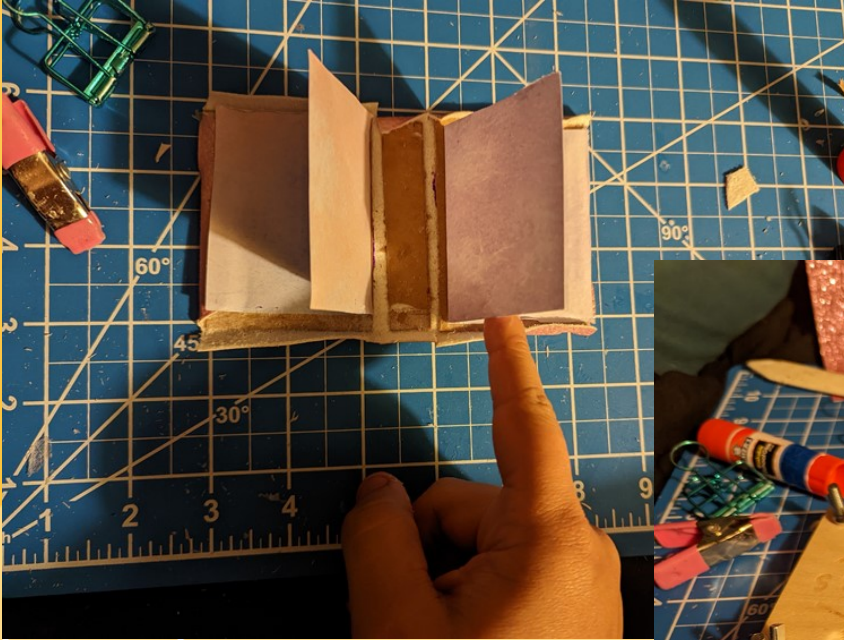


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INSTRUCTIONS continued

16. Glue entire text block to cover pages and press overnight.



17. In the morning, you should have a miniature book that looks something like this:

